

CONFIDENTIAL

OLC #78-2058

23 May 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

25X1 SUBJECT: Conversation With [] Former Agency Employee

X1 25X1 1. [] CI Staff, told me that [] was concerned that she had not done well in her depositions with House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) staffers recently. She apparently had some questions as well and she asked if I would talk with her.

25X1 2. [] retired in 1969. She worked in CI Staff and was the person who opened the original [] file on Oswald in 1960. By her account the questioning focused on the circumstances of opening the file, and possibly related procedural practices. Her story is a fairly simple one. There was a State Department request for information concerning a list of defectors. She did the basic work in preparing the information and then, on her own decision, opened [] files on each of the individuals, totaling about 12 in all. One of them was on Lee Harvey Oswald. She also, on her own decision, noted a restriction that required requestors for information on any of those people to contact her in CI Staff.

3. The staff questioning made it clear that the HSCA wished to determine if Oswald had an agent relationship with the Agency. She feels that an effort was made in two or three different ways to get her to make statements that there was some such relationship. For instance, there were the letters "ag" on the form employed in opening [] files. She was asked if this meant "agent." She replied that it did not although she could not recall what it did mean. She also made the point in her testimony that she did not handle agent files. When pressed on the possibility that there might be another such file elsewhere on Oswald, she said that there would have to be a "fake" file. When pressed on this she stated that the word was an incorrect one, and that what would have been involved would have been a file folder with a piece of paper in it referring to the existence of an original file somewhere else, specifying where.

4. She was pressed on why the name Lee Henry Oswald appeared on one occasion, instead of correctly as Lee Harvey Oswald. She could not explain, speculating that it could have been either a mistake, or that some one other than herself made the entry as the handwriting appeared quite differently than the rest of her writing on the form. She pointed out that she did all 12 folders at the same time and got tired of writing, which made her handwriting deteriorate.

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6. She testified that on the day of the assassination of President Kennedy she stayed on at the office although many employees went home early. It was not until late in the day that Oswald was apprehended and identified. Because she was there, she was able to identify him immediately when the request came for a trace on him, due to her earlier familiarity with the matter.

5X1 25X1 7. [] had showed [] the memorandum by Betsy Wolf, HSCA researcher, of her interview with []. It stated that 25X1 [] was "uncertain" as to whether she had come in the "next day" 25X1 after the President's assassination. [] said that this must be based on her failure to reply to a statement that the following day was a Saturday. She was certain and is certain and made a positive statement to that effect. She is concerned that similar interpretive comments might find their way into the official record, thereby throwing some doubt on her testimony.

25X1 8. [] asked what she should do in reviewing the transcript of her testimony. I told her that she might find mistakes in the transcript and that she should not hesitate to identify them for the record and to correct them. If she found that she had made statements that read differently than she had intended in the context of her questioning she should not hesitate to acknowledge making the statements but to record clearly what it was that she intended to convey. She spoke of defending the Agency and I replied that she need only tell the truth and not worry herself. I expressed the opinion to her that her evidence on the circumstances leading to the opening of the Oswald X1 [] file was clear and unequivocal and that the rest of what she said, as relayed to me, made sense to anyone interested in the straight facts.

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Distribution:

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